(c) if so, the steps considered by Government in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Information Technology and information technology enabled services are covered under existing labour laws.

The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and legally vested with the powers to deal with the violation of the labour laws in information technology (private) sector.

Working Hours for women Employees

206. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed working hours for industrial and other workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that this norm is not strictly followed in various organizations, particularly in private sector financial institutions, resulting in exploitation of the workforce and leading to complications relating to mental and physical stress, particularly, among female employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would consider issuing directions to all organizations to strictly adhere to the working-hours, particularly in respect of women employees; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (e) As per Section 51 of Factories act, 1948, no adult workers shall be required or allowed to work in a factory for more than 48 hours in any week and Section 54 provide that no adult worker shall be required or allowed to work in a factory for more than 9 hours in any day. The State Government has the powers to relax or exempt the working hours to the reasonable extent.

Further, as per Section 66 of the Factories act, 1948 no women shall be required or allowed to work in any factory except between the hours of 6.00 AM and 7.00 PM. The State Government may vary the limits laid

down above but so that no such variation shall authorize the employment of any woman between the hours 10.00 PM and 5.00 AM.

Further in the liberalized scenario, though there is no violation of working norms, yet, the adjustment/flexibility is being done within the permissible limits.

MoU with China

207. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seven member delegation of China headed by Chinese Vice-Minister on Labour and Social Security visited India recently;

(b) if so, the purpose and the outcome of the visit;

(c) whether a MoU on exchange in employment vocational training and social security was signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to learn more from China from its success in these fields; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A six member delegation of China headed by Mr. Wang Dongjin, Chinese Vice-Minister on labour and social affairs visited India from 24th to 26th October, 2005.

(b) to (d) A MoU with Government of People's Republic of China was signed on 25th October, 2005 extending an existing MoU for a further period of three years for cooperation in employment, vocational training and social security. The agreement is to broaden the cooperation between the two countries in the field of employment, vacational training and social security. The areas precisely identified are labour and social security legislation, measures and policies of employment promotion, labour relations, policies on vocational training and social security and any other area of mutual interest.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Exchanges of ideas and experience which are mutually beneficial are the objectives to be achieved through the MoU.